SECOND MELODY BOOK

CHILDREN IN PRIMARY AND PREPARATORY SCHOOLS

78072

BY WALFORD DAVIES



MACMILLAN AND CO., LIMITED ST. MARTIN'S STREET, LONDON 1938

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THREE MORE SHORT TALKS TO THE BOY OR GIRL WHO USES THIS BOOK

Nar	ne	 ••••		•••	• • • •	 	• • • •
	School	 ••••	•••	• • • •		 	
	Date					 	

1.—ON THE FAMILY-NAMES OF NOTES

A thousand years ago the first six notes of what is to-day our major scale were christened with names (from the first note upwards): Ut, Re, MI, Fa, Sol, La. These names came from the initial syllables of a Latin Hymn to St. John the Baptist. After a time a seventh name, SI, was added for the seventh note in the octave. (I expect it came from the initials of St. John, don't you?) Then Ut, being awkward to sustain, was changed to Do; and it seems likely that this name came from *Dominus*, the Lord. And Do became the name of the ruler of our natural major scale and gradually chief of all notes.

Less than a hundred years ago SI was changed in England to TE, so that it might have a different initial from Sol. And all these familiar names were spelt anew, so that they might sound in English almost exactly as they sound in Latin when they are used in Europe:—Doh, Ray, ME, Fah, Soh, Lah, TE, Doh. It is better to write them out for yourself uprightly as they are in the Tonic Solfa Modulator.

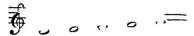
(The Pointers on the right hand side of the syllables are for use. Make your own copy of the Ladder of Family-Names to use for finding the major scale in any key on the model keyboard on page 4.)

The Pointers should be used along the TOP of the keyboard, not along the bottom.

LADDER OF FAMILY-NAMES (MAJOR SCALE)

2.—ON THE FIXED NAMES OF NOTES

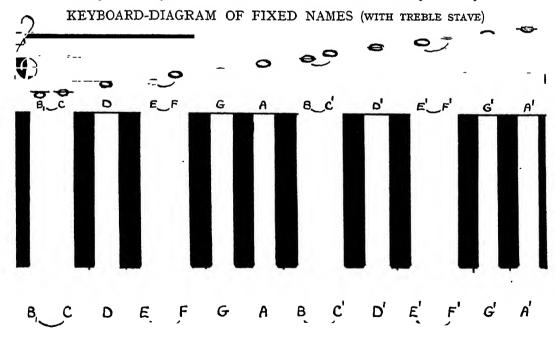
You will perhaps wonder whether you really need two kinds of names for notes. Yes, you do; just as you yourself have your own name, Mary or John, and that name never changes, so a note in music has its own fixed name, C or E (and sometimes there are two fixed names for the very same note, A flat and G sharp). But if you yourself were going to take your place in a team, you would have a team-name too—Captain, or Half-back, or Centre Forward. In the same way exactly in the game of melody you want the movable, official or family-name (or team-name) for each note, according to his appointed place in the game:—Doh, ray, me, etc. Look now at these five familiar notes on your stave:



As you know, any of these notes might be Doh of a scale one day and Ray the next! But their fixed names, for hundreds of years, have been

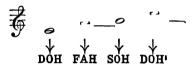


The best way I can help you to master the fixed names will be by a little Diagram of Keyboard and Stave. In this diagram, we can manage with only 23 notes, chosen from the middle of the keyboard-compass, where we hear and remember most of our tunes. And above these, we can place the *stave* upon which you always read your favourite tunes and will always write your own tunes,—for life! Below is the diagram with the natural fixed notes, and you will (when the tune needs it) easily find the sharp of every natural note *immediately on its right*, and the flat of the same note *immediately on its left*.



3.—ON THE USE OF THE TWO KINDS OF NAMES

Well now, what use are the two kinds of names? "Tell me how to use each of them," you say. First, when you want to think out a tune and how it goes,—when you want to think what note is "captain" and what note stands a fifth or fourth away from the captain, you will use the team-names Doh-soh or Doh-fah, and think all the clearer and sing in better tune. That is what the family-names or team-names are for. Tell me which note is Doh, and I'll be able to think the chord of the key, and all the notes or "men" in the game, just as clearly as if they were boys or girls in the football or hockey field! There they stand:

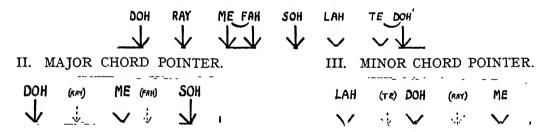


and I'll soon be able to place all my men in any field! (That is to say: in any key.) Very good, you say. Now comes a second question: "Tell me how to use the fixed names." They are to help you to read music and to play it. So, from the first, think of the fixed names by sight on the stave and on the keyboard (see your Diagram) and you will soon know how to use them. It may help to say that one set of names is meant specially to help your mind, the other specially to help your eye. So you will do well to try always to read from the stave of fixed notes with the keyboard in your mind's eye too. But in thinking tunes out, your very best and life-long friends are the family-names.

To bring the two together make your own *Pointers*, of the right size exactly. On this page are three pointers to begin with; you can make every kind for yourself—scale pointers or chord pointers. They will show you quickly how to read and write what you have thought, in any key you can ever want.

SOLFA POINTERS FOR USE WITH KEYBOARD-DIAGRAM OF FIXED NAMES

I. MAJOR SCALE POINTER.



Note—These Pointers should be used along the TOP of the keyboard on page 4, not along the bottom.

Point Doh to C, and you will find the white-note major scale. Point Doh to F, and you will need just one black note ($flat\ B$) to make your scale sound completely right. Point Doh to G and what will you need? Again just one black note (this time $sharp\ G$) to make it sound right. What fun to get used to all twelve major keys, just whenever you need them for your tunes! And now I wish you good hunting for another year.

P.S.—Make your own models in stout cardboard with great care to scale; then use them for all your tunes, whenever they can clear your mind, and I think you will find them useful very often.

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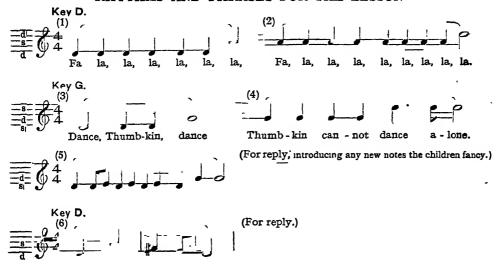
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks are due to the following for permission to use extracts from copyright poems for the purposes of this volume: Mr. Walter de la Mare, for "Poor Tired Tim," "The Huntsmen," and "Five Eyes"; Miss Rose Fyleman, for "Fairies by the Sea," reprinted from *Punch* by permission of the Proprietors, and from *Fairies and Friends* (Methuen & Co.); Miss Flora Sandström, for "The Stately Lady"; and Mr. Wilfrid Thorley, for "Bounce Ball," from *Cloud-Cuckoo-Land*.

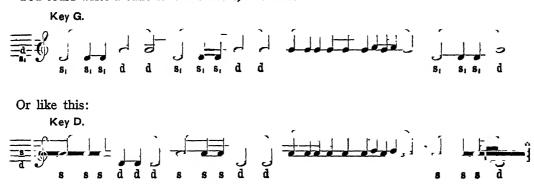
XIII. ON TUNES ON FOUR NOTES

RHYTHMS AND PHRASES FOR THE LESSON



Notes.

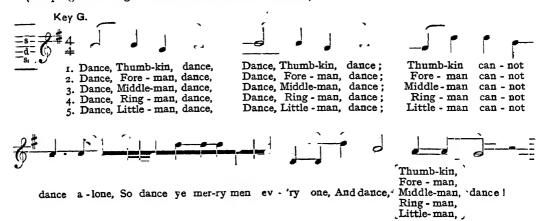
You could write a tune on three notes, like this:



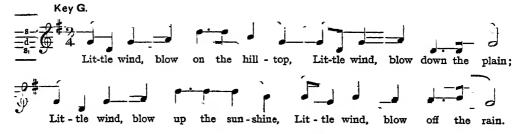
But it is better fun to have four notes. Make great friends with the "King of the Castle" called *Doh*, and his chief *Soh*, and you will soon find two other friendly notes near them to make up a jolly tune. Let the last line of all your tunes end on *Doh*.

SONG-DANCE, THUMBKIN, DANCE

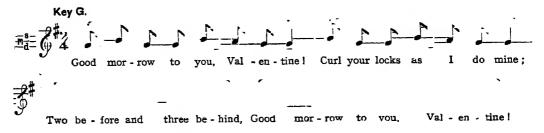
(Keeping each finger in motion as its turn comes.)



SONG-LITTLE WIND

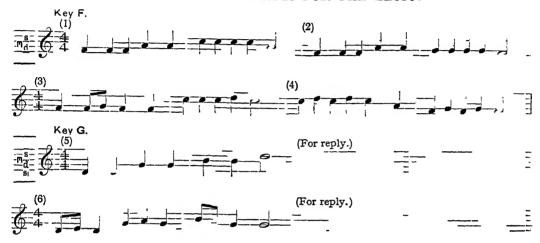


OWN TUNE



XIV. ON WORKING ON A FIVE-NOTE SCALE

RHYTHMS AND PHRASES FOR THE LESSON



Notes.

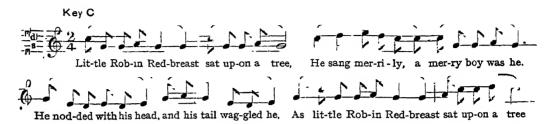
Here is a lovely chord:

Think of the three notes that make this chord, by name. Then sing them to yourself, in all the ways you can think of:

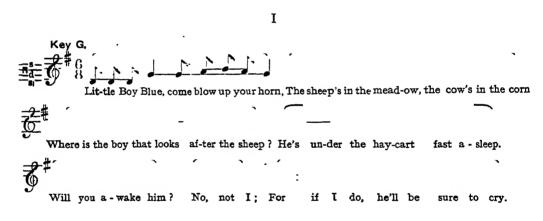
There are hundreds of ways in which you can sing them to yourself.

When you have done this for some time, think of any two other notes that will go well with them. Then you will have five to play with. You need not give the two visitors names just yet. Find them with your voice, or on the keyboard, and join them in your mind with your three chord-notes. Then you will be able to make five-note tunes on the three notes you are thinking, with their two visitors who have dropped in to see them; a happy family of five friendly notes.

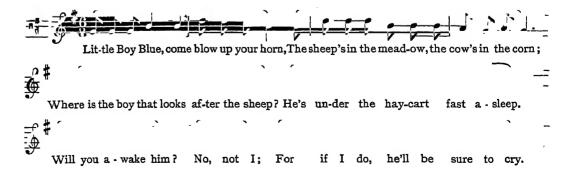
SONG-COCK ROBIN



OWN TUNES

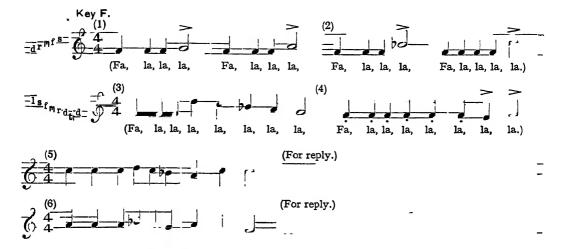


II ANOTHER VERSION



XV. THE KEYNOTE TAKES COMMAND

RHYTHMS AND PHRASES FOR THE LESSON



Notes.

Now that you have learnt to know the notes of the chord by name, it will be easy to learn the names of the rest of the scale-family. Here they all are, talking to their keynote (in phrases I to 4). Sing these, or play them on the keyboard, till you feel that you love the sound of them all and would know each note by name if you heard it with its keynote. In your tunes you will find many ways of making them stand in groups and talk to each other (as in phrases 5 and 6).

It is good fun if two of you get together and agree upon *DOH*, and then try to puzzle each other, seeing which can guess quickest the name of the note the other sings; like this:

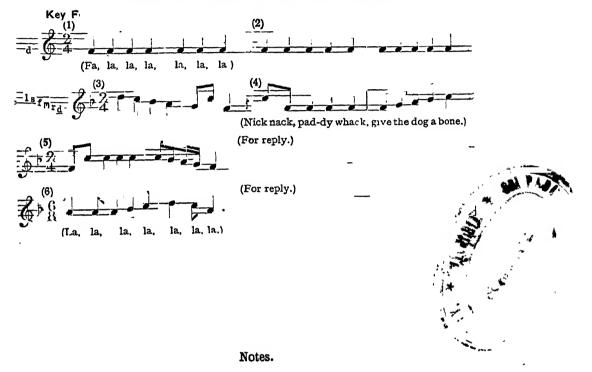
When you play this game always end up with DOH. What are the right answers to all these? If you really can't say, ask someone to help you, till you know them all in the world of sound, just as quickly as you know people and things in the world of sight.

SONG-THE LARK



XVI. ON A SIX-NOTE SCALE

RHYTHMS AND PHRASES FOR THE LESSON

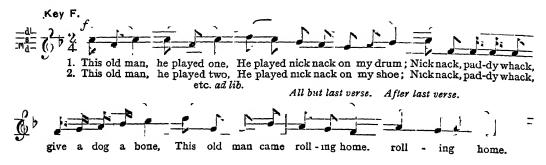


To-day we will ask the note TE to go out of the room for a little, and do all our thinking with the six notes that are left:

What friends and neighbours they sound! Try those that are not next-door neighbours but live three doors off, and listen how friendly even they are to each other:

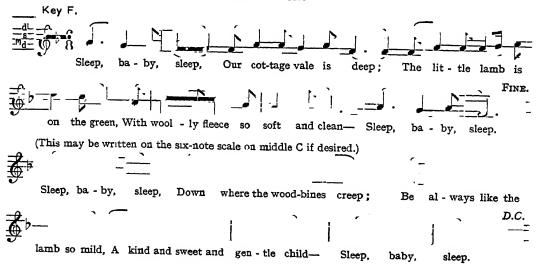
Use them often for your rhythms.

SONG-THIS OLD MAN



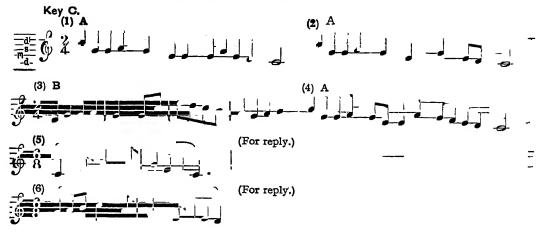
OWN TUNE

CRADLE SONG



XVII. ON RHYTHMIC PATTERNS FOR TUNES

RHYTHMS AND PHRASES FOR THE LESSON

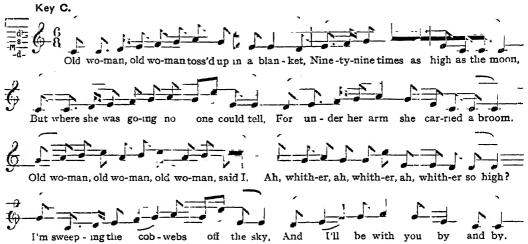


Notes.

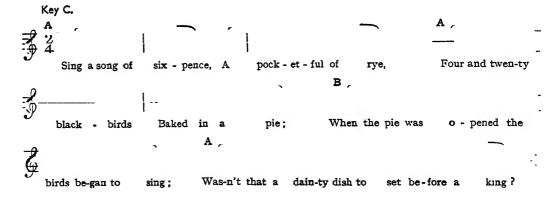
The first pattern to work upon is called A A B A. Learn it by heart. A means: think a thought. The second A means: repeat it. B means: think a new thought. Then the last A means: run home again to your first thought. Try to write your own tune in this pattern to the old words "Sing a song of sixpence." You need not keep the A piece exactly the same all three times unless you like. Indeed, when you come to make tunes, even while you are thinking the very same phrase, it will grow a little differently in your mind. For tunes will always grow like plants or trees grow. The phrases will match, but never be exactly to pattern the same. Who ever found two roses on the same tree exactly the same shape and size? And yet they match! So let your phrases grow as they choose and as you choose. Let them grow differently, and yet match. (See Lesson XIX.)

16 ON RHYTHMIC PATTERNS FOR TUNES

SONG-OLD WOMAN, OLD WOMAN TOSS'D UP IN A BLANKET

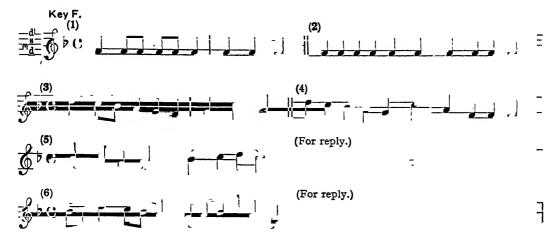


OWN TUNE



XVIII. ON BALANCING AGAIN

RHYTHMS AND PHRASES FOR THE LESSON



Notes.

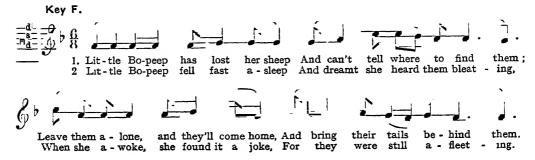
Balancing and Matching seem like each other. Match your first phrase with your second. Match your third phrase with your fourth. "Poor Tired Tim" matches or balances "It's sad for him."

Even the smallest tune in the world has Balance. What is it that we like so much in Balance? We cannot tell. We only know we love it. Remember three different ways of balancing if you can:

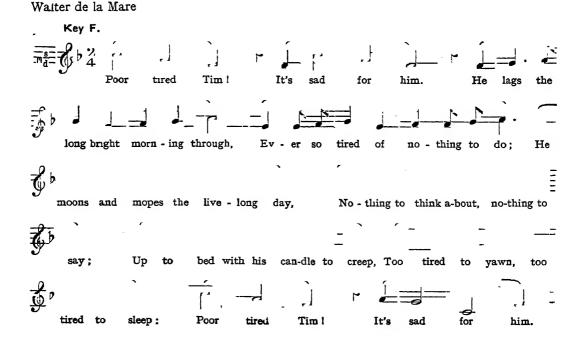
- I. Balance a phrase by repeating it (softer or louder).
- 2. Balance a phrase by letting it grow.
- 3. Balance one phrase with quite another phrase altogether.

Tap the rhythm of one phrase with your left hand, then tap the next one with your right hand, and you will soon know which balances which.

SONG-LITTLE BO-PEEP

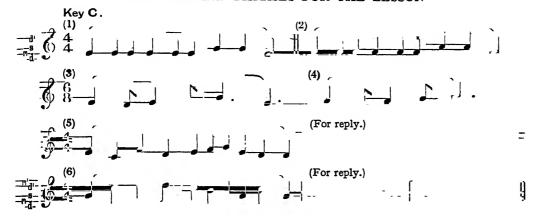


OWN TUNE



XIX. ON TUNES THAT GROW

RHYTHMS AND PHRASES FOR THE LESSON



Notes.

Have you ever picked up a few leaves of an oak tree? They all are very much alike, but none of them is exactly the same as its neighbour. They have grown alike, and yet grown a little different.

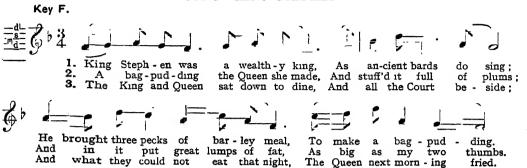
Think of the parts of tunes as if they were leaves or twigs of leaves on a tree, and see how they grow.

Take care, in writing your own tunes for this lesson, that all the phrases match well.

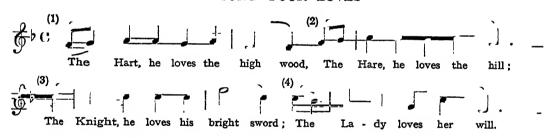
Lesson XVII gave you your plan or pattern for designing a tune. Lesson XVIII reminded you about the lovely habit of Balancing phrases. In both of them you remembered that a tune grows as it goes along, whatever its pattern may be. And now in letting your tunes grow, you must not forget the need for the pattern and the balancing. It is always there, though you must not have to worry about it.

ON TUNES THAT GROW

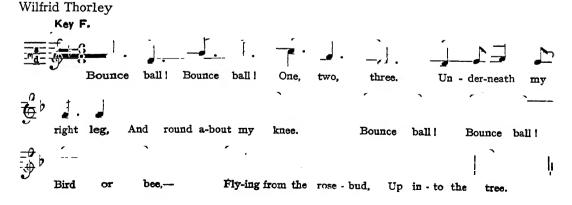
SONG-KING STEPHEN



SONG-FOUR LOVES

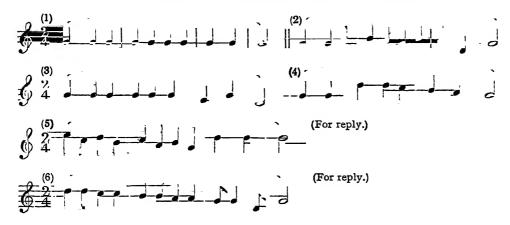


OWN TUNE



XX. ON PHRASES THAT TALK

RHYTHMS AND PHRASES FOR THE LESSON



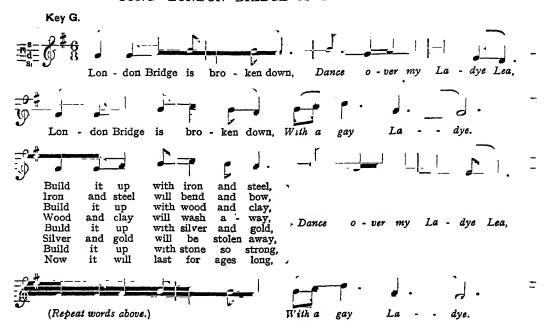
Notes.

Say together the words of your tune for this lesson over and over again. Dwell a little on all the words you like, and put a lot of meaning into them.

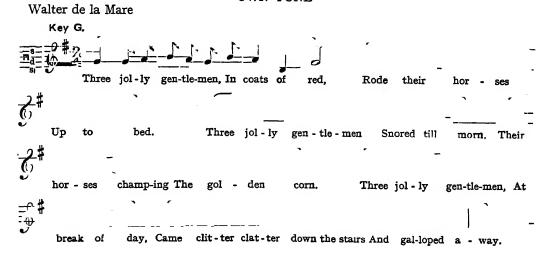
After you have done this a few times, perhaps your own tune to it will begin to grow naturally.

SONG—PUSSY CAT, PUSSY CAT Key F. 1. Pus-sy Cat, Pus-sy Cat, where have you been? I've been up to Lon-don to look at the Queen. 2. Pus-sy Cat, Pus-sy Cat, what did you there? I fright-ened a lit-tle mouse un-der the chair.

SONG-LONDON BRIDGE IS BROKEN DOWN

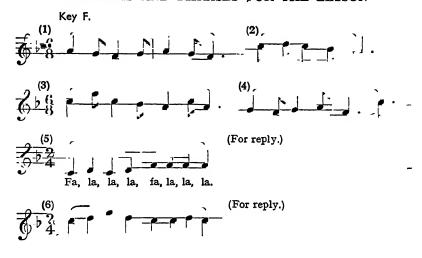


OWN TUNE



XXI. ON FAIRY WORDS TO FAIRY TUNES

RHYTHMS AND PHRASES FOR THE LESSON



Notes.

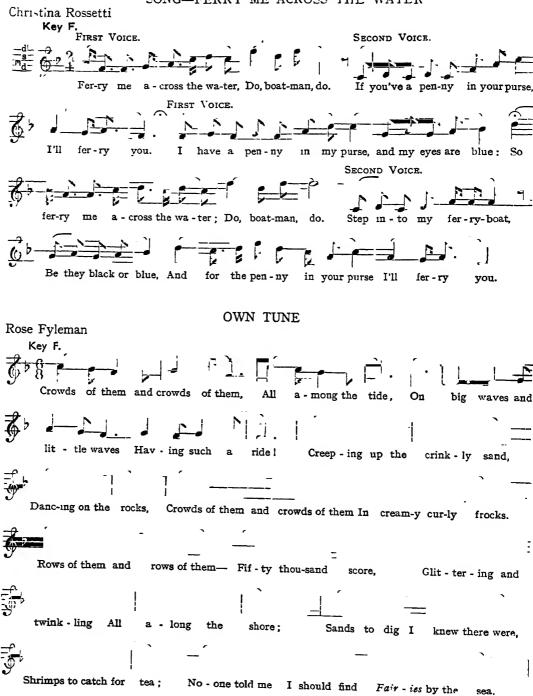
Of course you must think fairy-tunes and fairy-ways of singing for all words about fairies, and of course you must sing them very softly and as quickly as ever they will go, as the fairies would.

Use the notes from DOH to FAH, and, when the fairies cannot dance in them, try the notes from ME to LAH or RAY to SOH, and if the fairies dance out of them, let them dance into the four notes from SOH up to top DOH. You will find, if you work in this way, you will soon make real dancey fairy-tunes. Melodies that work within little connected scales of perfect fourths:

can sound dainty and gossamer-like. And use repeated notes too,

for surely fairies on tip-toe sound like that!

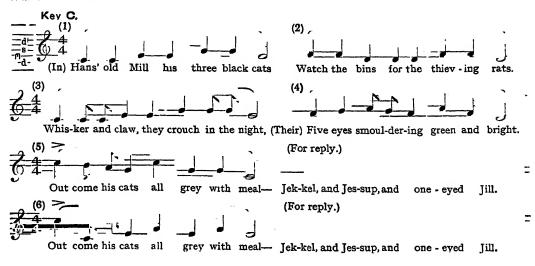
SONG-FERRY ME ACROSS THE WATER



XXII. ON SINGING WORDS CLEARLY

RHYTHMS AND PHRASES FOR THE LESSON

Walter de la Mare

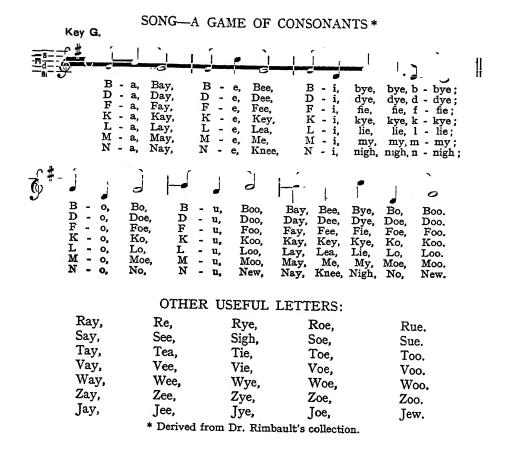


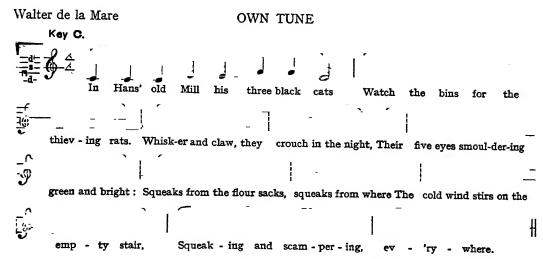
Notes.

Here are four pieces of advice:-

- I. Words in singing must be as clear as in the clearest speaking.
- 2. Prepare your consonants.
- 3. Fire them off together every time.
- 4. Practise singing words very softly.

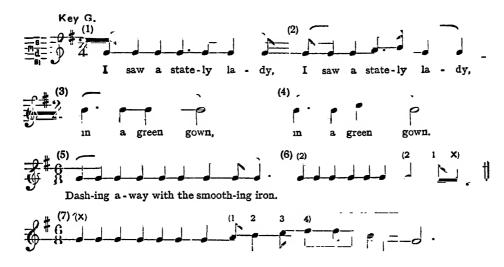
These four hints may be thought out one at a time. But when you have done that, think Nos. 2 and 3 together, as you sing in class. Every one in the team prepares his or her own edges (or consonants) and yet every one is determined to fire off each bit of each word exactly with the team. Then you can add hint No. 4; and listening hard to see that all words are clear, and soft, and together, the class quickly gets more and more perfect at the game.





XXIII. ON READING TUNES ON THE STAVE AND PICKING THEM OUT ON THE KEYBOARD

RHYTHMS AND PHRASES FOR THE LESSON



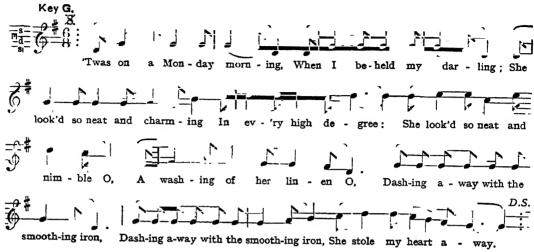
Notes.

I. Pick out phrases Nos. I to 7 one by one at the keyboard. 2. Sing each one after you have picked it out. 3. Play and sing them at once. 4. Try at last to look at the phrases while you play them and not at the keyboard.

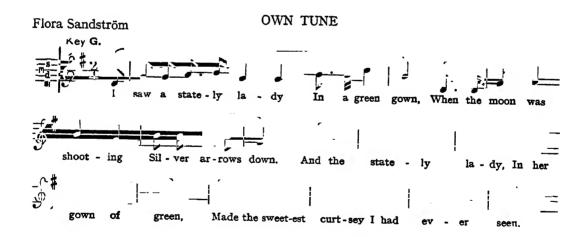
Some of you will be much quicker at this than others. If you are very slow-fingered at the keyboard, it will be well to spend all your time on reading from the stave and merely looking at the keys and their fixed names. In all reading practice you will find your Fixednames Model of Keyboard and Stave, with their Pointers, your chief help.

28 ON READING TUNES AND PICKING THEM OUT

SONG—DASHING AWAY WITH THE SMOOTHING IRON *

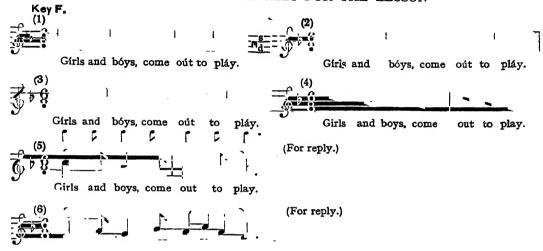


* Collected and arranged by Cecil J. Sharp. Copyright, 1909. Messrs. Novello, Ltd. By permission of Miss Karpeles.



XXIV. ON WRITING OUT TUNES ON THE STAVE

RHYTHMS AND PHRASES FOR THE LESSON

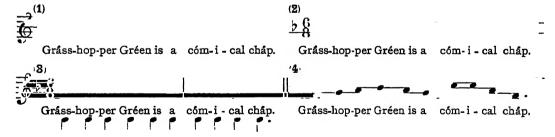


Notes.

Learn to write out a tune, bit by bit, in this way:

- I. Write the words under an empty stave.
- 2. Mark their chief accents and draw their bar-lines.
- 3. Write all the longs, shorts and holds under their right words.
- 4. Tick the notes of the tune into their right places on the stave over each syllable.

Then at last you will be ready to write out the tune itself, all complete, on the stave, just like print. Try it here:



After a time you will perhaps be able to begin at (3) and write out your tune almost complete the second time.

SONG-AWAY IN A MANGER

